
Recognising Muslims : Religion, Ethnicity and Identity Politics in Britain

Sean MCLOUGHLIN



Édition électronique

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/cemoti/723>
ISSN : 1777-5396

Éditeur

AFEMOTI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 1 janvier 2002
Pagination :
43-54
ISSN : 0764-9878

Référence électronique

Sean MCLOUGHLIN, « Recognising Muslims : Religion, Ethnicity and Identity Politics in Britain », *Cahiers d'études sur la Méditerranée orientale et le monde turco-iranien* [En ligne], 33 | 2002, mis en ligne le 01 avril 2004, consulté le 03 mai 2019. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/cemoti/723>

Ce document a été généré automatiquement le 3 mai 2019.

Tous droits réservés

Recognising Muslims : Religion, Ethnicity and Identity Politics in Britain

Sean MCLOUGHLIN

RÉSUMÉS

In this short paper I want to trace the emergence and maturation of a Muslim identity politics in Britain during the 1980s and 1990s. I begin, before the events of the Rushdie Affair in 1989, with an examination of the first crystallisation of Muslim assertiveness on the local level, with special reference to the city of Bradford in West Yorkshire. Bradford is currently home to around 80 000 Muslims who make up 16% of the total population and over half of all numbers in key inner city wards. Throughout the 1980s Bradford became something of an icon of multiculturalism in Britain with its recognition of Muslim 'rights' in the public space and especially state education. My paper continues with an exploration of why, by the time of the Rushdie Affair, there was a need for Muslim identity politics to shift to the national level. This is followed by some reflections on the Rushdie Affair itself, during which I highlight the different orientations of some of the Islamic organisations presently represented in Britain. Elite Muslim organisations tend to be politically engaged on the national level but lack in substantial support at the grassroots. By contrast, other movements with power-bases in mosque networks routinely combine devotionism or scripturalism with an ethnic orientation towards the Indian-subcontinent. The final part of my paper concerns the increasing recognition of Muslims as 'Muslims' on a national level in the decade or so between the Rushdie Affair and September 11 2001.